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sary, as the data are presented, for each store to report only sales and rent, while for the single year, 1914, it was necessary that sales, rent, and total expense be reported. The use of a different number of stores in the various presentations is typical of the method followed throughout the study. The reason for doing this is referred to by the reviewer in another connection and should have been evident to him in this case.

In brief, the reviewer, while describing in a general way the contents of the Bureau's study, forgets the purpose of the study and takes little note of the methods which have been used to realize it. Because of the fact that statistical data are always susceptible to misuse, that they may appear to be exact and at the same time be full of error, and that many people are credulous to a fault in the use of them, the Bureau took special precaution to guard against its findings being improperly used. If its efforts in this respect have been almost completely overlooked by the reviewer, it can only hope that such will not be the case on the part of others into whose hands the volumes come.

HORACE SECRIST

The Bureau of Business Research,
Northwestern University, School of Commerce

A REPLY

BY H. K. HERWITZ

On the essential points Professor Secrist and I do not differ. The arithmetic mean is easy to find and easy to compute. Modes and medians are not. As Professor Secrist knows, however, and as the illustrations that I take from his study clearly show, the arithmetic mean, although it is easy to calculate or even because it is easy to compute, frequently does not show what it professes to show. This is my point. And it still seems to me true that matters of this kind should not be left to the scrutiny of ordinary readers of books of this sort, who usually are so little practiced in the art of statistics.

With regard to Professor Secrist's second point that the "detailed" tables would have yielded different results than the "total" tables, I can only add that an examination of the "detailed" tables does not confirm Professor Secrist's statement.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Vital Statistics Courses. The following information on vital statistics education in schools of public health was collected by the Committee on Vital Statistics of the American Statistical Association:

University of Chicago. Department of Hygiene and Bacteriology
Vital statistics and epidemiology. Professor E. O. Jordan.

Harvard University. School of Public Health.
An elementary course of lectures and laboratory work designed to familiarize the student with descriptive vital statistics, with graphic representation and with the basic theory of probabilities and correlation. Edwin B. Wilson, Professor of Vital Statistics.